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TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

From: Herminio F. Gonzalez, P.E., Director
Building Code Compliance Office

Date: February 13, 2003

Subject: Masonry Horizontal Reinforcement

A direct reference indicating the vertical spacing of horizontal wall reinforcement is not contained in the Florida Building Code. However, Section 2122.1 of the FBC refers to ACI 530-95/ASCE 5-95, Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures as a minimum standard. Section 1.13.5.2.3(a) in this standard indicates that the horizontal reinforcement shall consist of at least two longitudinal W1.7 (equivalent to #9 wire gage) wires **spaced not more than 16 in.** Additionally, this horizontal reinforcement shall be provided within 16 in. of the top and bottom of these masonry walls.

Please address any questions regarding this issue to Mr. Jaime Eisen, P.E. of my staff at the above listing.

HFG:JE:MG